

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims is complete and replaces all prior versions of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (New) A sanding device, comprising:

 a feed table defining a feed direction for feeding a workpiece into the device;

 a sanding unit comprising a sanding belt and a segmented sanding pad including a plurality of rotatable sanding pad segments; and

 a plurality of contact rollers for controlling the application of the plurality of rotatable sanding pad segments;

 wherein the sanding unit is steplessly movable between a first position in perpendicular alignment with the feed direction and a second position in oblique alignment with the feed direction;

 wherein the plurality of contact rollers move in parallel with the sanding unit; and

 wherein the sanding pad segments remain parallel with the feed direction in both the first and second positions and positions therebetween.

Claim 9. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 8, wherein the segmented sanding pad is electronically controlled.

Claim 10. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 8, wherein the plurality of contact rollers are selectively movable between a perpendicular alignment with the feed direction and an oblique alignment with the feed direction.

Claim 11. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 8, further comprising a drive motor.

Claim 12. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 11, wherein RPM regulation of the drive motor is controlled via a frequency converter and sanding at the oblique alignment is at a rate of about 10 m/s or less.

Claim 13. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 8, wherein a path distance between each one of the plurality of sanding pad segments and each one of the corresponding plurality of contact rollers is the same when the sanding unit is in both the perpendicular alignment and the oblique alignment with the feed direction.

Claim 14. (New) A sanding device, comprising:

a sanding unit comprising a sanding belt and a segmented sanding pad including a plurality of individually rotatable sanding pad segments; and

a plurality of contact rollers for controlling the application of the plurality of rotatable sanding pad segments;

wherein the sanding unit is selectively movable between a perpendicular alignment with a feed direction for feeding a workpiece into the device and an oblique alignment with the feed direction;

wherein the plurality of contact rollers move in parallel with the sanding unit;

wherein a path distance between each one of the plurality of sanding pad segments and each one of the corresponding plurality of contact rollers is the same when the sanding unit is in both the perpendicular alignment and the oblique alignment with the feed direction.

Claim 15. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the sanding unit and the plurality of contact rollers are steplessly movable.

Claim 16. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the segmented sanding pad is electronically controlled.

Claim 17. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the plurality of contact rollers are selectively movable between a perpendicular alignment with the feed direction and an oblique alignment with the feed direction.

Claim 18. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 14, further comprising a drive motor and wherein RPM regulation of the drive motor is controlled via a frequency converter.

Claim 19. (New) A sanding device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the plurality of rotatable sanding pad segments are rotatable to maintain them parallel to the feed direction when the sanding unit is in the oblique alignment.